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Contributory Negligence (Beach, § 423) assures us that the statistics of litigation show that the harms sustained by six out of every seven persons suing in negligence, are due to their "own concurring and participating default."

F. M. B.

THE FRANKPLEDGE SYSTEM. By WILLIAM ALFRED MORRIS. New York. LONGMANS, GREEN & Co. (Harvard Historical Series, XIV). 1910. Pp. xiii-194.

This book, the first systematic study of the frankpledge system in its divers aspects, is as interesting and withal as scholarly and worthy a production as has graced the reviewer's table in a long while. It illustrates nearly to perfection the function of the intensive monograph in modern scholarship. The writer exhibits, moreover, a profound and remarkably thorough grasp not merely of his immediate subject, but of allied social, economic and—*mirabile dictu*—of legal questions as well.

The origin, the distribution, the organization and functions, and the decline of frankpledge are successively traced. The author finds in the Saxon institution of the "bohr," the genesis of the element of suretyship and reciprocal responsibility so prominent in frankpledge. In the quite distinct Saxon institution of the "tithing," he finds the germs of the police element in frankpledge and of the grouping by tens. A particularly useful feature of the work to the student of jurisprudence is the comprehensive insight afforded the reader, into English local government between the days of William I and of Edward I, especially as regards the enforcement of the criminal law and the manner of pursuit and detention of wrongdoers. Even in these days of legal and juridical Philistinism and Materialism, such a very distinct contribution as this is, has its unquestioned value. In fact, English legal history, as a whole, deserves more than the merely perfunctory attention at present usually accorded to it in schools of law; the political scientist and the historian of to-day are doing the research which might equally and very reasonably be expected from students of the law, and this very work serves to emphasize, and to make the lawyer keenly conscious of, the fact.

Style and literary polish have not been unduly sacrificed by Prof. Morris. The book is a noteworthy example of the absolute possibility of treating a highly technical subject in a fluent and, one might almost say, refreshing manner. It is quite up to the high standard already set by the Harvard Historical Series and makes one sincerely wish that the late Prof. Gross, to whom the book is dedicated, might have been longer spared to us to the end that still more scholars might have been inspired by his teaching and example.

I. M. W.

THE LAW AND PRACTICE IN BANKRUPTCY UNDER THE NATIONAL BANKRUPTCY ACT OF 1898, by WM. MILLER COLLIER, Eighth edition, by FRANK B. GILBERT, Published by MATTHEW BENDER & Co., Albany, 1910.

The reason for this new edition of a standard treatise is stated in the preface to be "the important amendments to the Bankruptcy Act by the Act of June 25, 1910." As the preface says, these amendments "are far reaching in effect, and completely nullify many decisions which were controlling in the several jurisdictions." We do not deny that this cast a duty on the publishers of "Collier" to get out a new edition. But it was also incumbent upon this new edition to elucidate